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## Gary J. Arthur Community Center's Rain Garden



As many know, Gary J. Arthur tends to get hit harder with winter weather than the rest of the county. The overhang above the front entrance causes ice to form

on the sidewalks. They found a creative solution – a rain garden! Partnering with the Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) group and various county agencies, a rain garden was installed which can support birds and butterflies.

### What is a rain garden?

It is a small garden made up of a selection of plants which are designed to withstand the extremes of moisture and concentrations of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus that are found in storm water runoff.



### What is the READY group?

It is a program funded by Howard County and administered by the Alliance for the

Chesapeake Bay with support from People Acting Together in Howard (PATH). The program solves two issues, (1) being good stewards of the environment and (2) finding meaningful jobs for the youth of Howard County.

## Robinson Nature Center's Nature Place

The ribbon was cut for the new Nature Place at the RNC on Sunday, September 20th. Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman was joined by other dignitaries and lots of smiling faces at this joyful event. For more information on this exciting new addition to HCRP, please visit <http://howardcountymd.gov/RNCnatureplace.htm>.



## Important Dates this Fall

September 23: First Day of Autumn  
 September 26: [Family Hiking Day](#)  
 September 26: [National Public Lands Day](#)  
 First Week of October:  
[Junk Mail Awareness Week](#)  
 October 1: [World Vegetarian Day](#)  
 October 4: [World Animal Day](#)  
 November 1: [World Vegan Day](#)  
 November 15: [America Recycles Day](#)  
 Day After Thanksgiving:  
[Buy Nothing Day](#)



## Howard County launches PALS partnership with University of Maryland

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman announced a partnership with the University of Maryland for the university's campus-wide action learning program, The Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS). More than 500 graduate and undergraduate students from 16 programs will work in Howard County as part of the year-long effort.

Developed by the university's National Center for Smart Growth, PALS pairs faculty expertise with student ingenuity to tackle sustainability issues facing Maryland communities. PALS partners with one or two communities each academic year, matching customized coursework with the specific challenges described by the partner community. Offering on-the-ground civic engagement, PALS coursework not only provides a living case study for students, but also offers a rewarding social experience and best mirrors future professional interactions within their disciplines. Courses will involve a variety of sustainability-related projects, from developing models for profitable small farms to addressing flooding in historic Ellicott City. Howard County is the largest jurisdiction to partner with the PALS program. The students have the opportunity to choose from a catalogue of 33 courses which will be led by 27 faculty members. "Research has shown that these kinds of action learning courses are among the handful of high impact learning experiences that engage students," said Uri Avin, Director of the PALS program. "The courses prepare them for their professions and instill a sense of ownership in creating sustainable communities."

For more information on the PALS partnership between the University of Maryland, Howard County Government and Columbia Association, go to <http://go.umd.edu/4hi>.



## Roger Carter Community Center Clean up!



All Ages / October 17 / Free

Lend a hand by picking up litter along the tree lines and streets of Historic Ellicott City. Meet at Roger Carter Community Center for a continental breakfast. We provide gloves, bags, and an event t-shirt for those who volunteer. All are welcome!

Please register by October 9.

RP5400.501 7:30-10:30 AM Saturday

Registration: 410-313-2764 or [www.howardcountymd.gov/rap](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap)  
Info: Julija Sajauskas, 410-313-2722 or [jsajauskas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jsajauskas@howardcountymd.gov)

Howard County  
RECREATION & PARKS



ROGER CARTER  
COMMUNITY CENTER

## Wood From Belmont Tree to be Re-Purposed



Just like Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree, the English Elm at Belmont Manor and Historic Park was taken down piece by piece. But unlike the tree in the book, Dutch Elm

disease dictated its demise. A stop motion video of the tree being taken down can be found on the Department's facebook page. The larger tree branches and its trunk are currently being stored under a huge tarp until all the bark falls off and can be removed off-site (the bark is where the disease resides). The branches and trunk, instead of being ground up into mulch, will be re-purposed to build furniture, bowls, pens and other items that will be either used at Belmont or sold in its gift shop. The Department is working with the Howard County Woodworking Guild to make this happen. Two large cross-sections of the trunk are being preserved for interpretation purposes and to determine the age of the tree so the tree, in a sense, will continue to remain at Belmont. I believe that knowing the wood will be re-used and enjoyed by so many, just like the ending line in the book, it can be said ... "And the tree was happy."

View the time lapse video also available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgolxSR5tSY&feature=youtu.be>





### New Recycling Law! For Maryland Events

SB781, drafted by Senator Karen Montgomery (D-Montgomery County) and signed into law last year, requires organizers of all special events on public property, attended by 200 or more people and providing food or drink, to have recycling containers located next to each provided trash can. Event organizers also must demonstrate a plan for collecting and recycling the material.

“By making recycling at events more convenient, people will more likely choose to recycle,” said Senator Montgomery. “They may start expecting and demanding recycling to be made more available in other areas as well.”



Already in compliance for events, Howard County Recreation & Parks is taking this initiative one step further, making the point that in many of our parks 200 visitors is quite common on normal weekends, not just during special events. Plans are underway to place recycling containers adjacent to all trash receptacles in several large parks in the county, eventually to extend to all parks and facilities. A small measure of ensuring that recycling receptacles are available to all park patrons is a valuable step in the effort to reduce, reuse and recycle!

### Sustainability of the Culinary Variety

This fall, Robinson Nature Center and the Heritage Program are partnering up for a three program series called the “Forgotten Skills Series.” These programs will train people in skills that people have used for centuries to gather and preserve foods. Do-it-yourself skills, like foraging, canning, and fermentation have assisted people for generations to maintain a sustainable food supply. Today, the sustainability of these skills is found in reduced packaging waste from making items oneself in reusable jars. It can also be attributed to having more control over the source of your food supply, whether it’s taking advantage of local offerings at farmer’s markets, buying organic produce, or growing your own fruits and vegetables. In addition to growing your own, the lesson on foraging will introduce participants to interesting wild edibles that might even be found in your backyard. Skills of canning and fermenting in the last two programs will provide you with ways to preserve foods whether purchased, harvested or foraged. Sometimes sustainable ways are forgotten ways. Check out these program offerings this fall and bring back some worthy sustainable culinary traditions to your life.

### Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

Another successful clean up occurred on Oakland Mills Road on September 2nd. We had a total of 9 people, 44 lbs. of trash and 10 lbs. of recycling. Grand totals since the beginning:



Overall trash = 318 lbs.  
Overall recycling = 111 lbs.

### Sustainability Reusable Bagged Lunch Discussion



On Wednesday, September 9, our very own Sue Muller spoke at our Annual Reusable Bagged Lunch about going on an electric diet. Sue shared many helpful tips with her co-workers as to how they can save on their home energy bills by making some changes in their everyday lives. In case you missed it, the presentation can be found at <T:\Shared\Sue Muller\Electric Diet>

Keep in mind that many of these steps can also be taken at work and will help lower your overall carbon footprint.



## What To Do With A Pumpkin's Shell, Pulp, and Seeds

### Cooking the seeds

Seeds can be roasted and eaten, or can be dried and given to the birds and squirrels. To roast pumpkin seeds, clean out the pumpkin, remove seeds from the pumpkin goo, and wash them thoroughly. Let them dry for a day or so on a paper towel. Put 1 tablespoon of oil in a bowl, add 2 cups of dried seeds and toss them until they are all coated with oil. Spread them out on a cookie sheet. Bake them in a 350-degree oven for about 45 minutes. Stir them every 10 or 15 minutes while they are baking. Shell and eat like sunflower seeds.

### Other uses

Canned pumpkin is often recommended by veterinarians as a dietary supplement for dogs and cats that are experiencing certain digestive ailments such as constipation, diarrhea, or hairballs. The high fiber content helps to aid proper digestion. Raw pumpkin can be fed to poultry, as a supplement to regular feed, during the winter to help maintain egg production, which usually drops off during the cold months.

### Recycle Pumpkins

Composting is the best way to recycle them. Many cities may actually request specifically that residents not send pumpkins to the landfill, and depending on where you live, there may be yard or green waste carts where you can dispose of your pumpkins. A composting facility converts the pumpkin into super rich soil, and can then be used again to grow more pumpkins and other garden and farm produce. Food recycling may not seem like it makes a difference, but in your community, there could be hundreds of thousands of pounds of pumpkins and other organic waste that should be sent for **nature to do the recycling**. Green waste makes up a large percent of residential waste, sometimes almost half! It's likely that the fees paid to haul solid waste are more than they are for green waste, so your actions will also result in city savings.

Waste to landfill: organic waste breaks down without oxygen and produces methane, a greenhouse gas.

Waste composted: organic waste breaks down aerobically, and no methane is produced.

(Along these lines, check your local guidelines to see if unwrapped candy you have no more room to eat can also go to a composting facility.) If you have your own compost pile, or if your county doesn't provide curbside yard waste bins, you can do the job in your own back yard. The pumpkin should be cut up into smaller pieces. Also search around for a community garden in your area to see if they're willing to add your pumpkins to their compost pile.

Leave your pumpkin for animals like deer and squirrels to take care of, but be mindful of attracting unwanted pests that may also come to nibble. Other places are getting even more creative. As a treat, the San Diego Zoo uses old pumpkins to provide amusement in their enclosures. See if a zoo near you would also accept pumpkins as feed (or toys) for animals.

### Some Local Pumpkin Patches

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

[Sharp's at Waterford Farm](#) - Brookeville

#### HOWARD COUNTY

[Rock Hill Orchard](#) - Mount Airy

[Clark's Elioak Farm](#) - Ellicott City

[Larriland Farm](#) - Woodbine

[Triadelphia Lake View Farm](#) - Glenelg



Thank you, to the following websites: <http://www.thepumpkinfarm.com/fag.html>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumpkin>, <http://www.recyclescene.com/how-to-recycle/recycle-pumpkins>, <http://activerain.com/blogsviw/2524264/pumpkin-patches-in-howard-montgomery-county-md>